

SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

The Rally & Events Scene



FEATURE ARTICLE

Vintage Preferred Run 18 January 2026

from Rick Nabkey

Well, the club's calendar of events for 2026 commenced with a washout.

After consistent rain over the entire route from mid-Friday, the Vintage Preferred Run, whilst officially still on, was as expected, not well supported.

Bryan Fowler, who had volunteered to perform back up duties, contacted me about 8:00 to advise there was water on many of the roads around Oakdale and to check if his services would be needed. As it was still raining, I advised I didn't expect any members would be riding.

I arrived at Alan and Merle Graham's property around 8:30 to find Alan had the urn boiling, as arranged, just in case a few optimistic souls turned up.

Jim McKusker and Jo Munk had travelled down through the rain on Saturday and left their bikes at Alan's whilst having an overnight stay at a beach near Wollongong.

Whilst waiting for them to show up, Laurence Key arrived about 9:30 with his Rudge snuggled up in a nicely covered trailer.

We had a hot beverage and by the time Jo and Jim had joined us, the rain had abated.

Laurence was keen to go on the ride, having made a personal commitment to attend more runs in 2026.

Jim and Jo had made alternate plans, so weren't riding, leaving Laurence as the sole starter.

Ian Richardson phoned Alan to check if there were many riders in attendance but ultimately decided against heading up to Burragorang lookout.

Laurence headed off on his own some time after 11:00.

I had family commitments in the afternoon,
I had to leave at 12:00 and before Laurence had returned.
I passed him on his return journey not far from Alan's, so I am certain
he made it back safely.

Many thanks to Alan and Merle for hosting our Vintage Preferred Run
yet again.
Hopefully we will have better weather in future years.

Rick Nabkey

*Thumbs up to Alan, Merle, Rick, Jim,
Jo, Ian & Lawrence for your efforts.
... Editor Pete*



*Lawrence Key heads out on his Rudge
on a rain soaked Vintage Preferred Run 2026
A great effort, Lawrence*



***BUT THEN ... just one week later,
the Vintage Preferred run was re-ran***

*VMCC ride from Douglas Park.
Despite the 38 degrees heat, a
good line up.*

*Thanks Rick for organising our
"Vintage preferred "run re-run*

VINTAGE PREFERRED RE-RUN - 25 January 2026

from Paul Brockbank

The Vintage Preferred Run (Better late than never)

After a false start a week earlier, due to biblical rains falling around Sydney, The Vintage preferred run (take 2) met at Alan Graham's place in Douglas Park.

Unfortunately, although Rick Nabkey had organised the run, he was unable to take part due to family commitments, but still came for the start for a chat and to check out the bikes.

The prediction was for a stinking hot day, nevertheless, there was a good turnout ... 23 bikes.

For me, this was to be a bit of a pre Bathurst test, as I've been experimenting with different seals for the Dowty Oleomatic forks on the Panther.

When acquired, the forks had been converted from air to springs, and were harsh and sticky.

So, just go back to air? ... Not so simple.

Choices were correct seal profile, wrong size or, wrong seal profile correct size.

I'd tried the former, which worked ok, but the Damping oil would continually leak out, until you were on a pogo stick! (the oil level in the fork is above the moving seal in operation, so you lose oil, not air if it's not sealing).



*Correct seal,
wrong size*

*Wrong seal,
correct size*



*Left:
Correct seal,
wrong size*



*Right:
Wrong seal,
correct size*

Anyway, we set off, now with the wrong seals but the right size fitted.

Glorious ride all the way up to Burragorang lookout to the first stop.

Ian Coulston's Rudge decided to dump its oil from a crack in its crankcase.

Luckily, it must have developed close to the stop, as copious quantities were dumped under the bike while parked.

So no engine damage apart from the crankcase.

Best wishes that the repairs go OK ... Pete



Bryan Fowler had kindly volunteered as backup with a van, which could only fit one bike.

But in addition to Ian, 2 others had not made it to the lookout.

So, plan B, take the bikes back to Bryans house one at a time.

Then run the riders back to Alan's place, so they could pick up their trailers to pick their bikes up from Bryans.

Bryan had a busy day!

A quick look at the forks before we set off.

Left leg dry but a slight leak on the right.

Should be alright for Bathurst anyway.

By now it was getting really hot so although we were scheduled to stop for a bite to eat at the Oaks, most people didn't stay long, choosing to head back before it got even hotter.

Paul Brockbank



Rick Nabkey presents the pre-ride briefing



At the Douglas Park starting point

All the tried and noted riders from places near & far had gathered at the Homestead early morn



The impressive lineup of 23 bikes at the Burraborang Lookout



"No Parking" sign ??
..... what "No Parking" sign ??

Laurie Deller has the parking arrangements sorted





A wonderful ride ...
even with the heat of the day



A stunning 1912 LMC



A handsome
1938 Ariel
Red Hunter

Ian & Hans
assess
Ian's Rudge



... and it was a
hot and thirsty day's ride